

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 4, 13 and 15 are currently being amended. The amendment to claim 4 is to place it in independent form, without narrowing its scope. The amendments to claims 13 and 15 are to change their dependencies.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-17 are now pending in this application.

Claim objections

Claims 13 and 15 were objected to for informalities. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 12 thus providing antecedent basis for “the method” from claim 12. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 14. Accordingly, applicant submits that the objection to claims 13 and 15 has been overcome.

Double patenting

Claim 17 was objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claim 13. This objection is obviated in view of the amendment to claim 13 to depend from claim 12.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 4-5 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 4 has been amended to be in independent form, and thus is in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 10-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,874,902 to Yamashita et al. (Yamashita). Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,628,460 to Ookawa et al. (Ookawa). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites “at least one prism structure, each of the at least one prism structures having a first surface characterized by a first surface structure function modulated by a second surface structure function, the first surface structure function having characteristics to provide that each of the at least one prism structures has a cross section with at least one curved side to provide defocusing diffusion to light incident on the substrate, the second surface structure function having characteristics to provide additional diffusion to the light incident on the substrate.” Yamashita fails to disclose at least a surface characterized by a first surface structure function modulated by a second surface structure function as those first and second surface structure functions are specifically recited in claim 1.

Yamashita discloses a light guide 3 having a light emissive face 33 and a back surface 34 opposite to the light emissive face (see FIGs. 1 and 3). Yamashita discloses that the surfaces of the light guide 3 may have a roughened surface or elongated lenses formed thereon (see col. 8, lines 66-67).

Yamashita, however, does not disclose a surface characterized by a first surface structure function modulated by a second surface structure function as those first and second surface structure functions are specifically recited in claim 1. Yamashita discloses embodiments where the roughened surface is on face 33 and the elongated lenses are on surface 34, and where the roughened surface is on face 34 and the elongated lenses are on surface 33 (see col. 10, lines 18-26). Yamashita, however, does not disclose any embodiments where the elongated lenses and roughened surface are on the same face of the light guide 3. Thus, even if the elongated lenses and roughened surface of Yamashita could be considered to correspond to the first and second surface functions, respectively, as recited in claim 1, Yamashita does not disclose any surface of its light guide 3 characterized by a first surface structure function modulated by a second surface structure function as those first and second surface structure functions are specifically recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable thereover for at least this reason.

Ookawa fails to cure the deficiencies of Yamashita.

Independent claim 14 recites “at least one prism structure, each of the at least one prism structures having a first surface characterized by a first surface structure function modulated by a second surface structure function, the first surface function having characteristics to provide that each of the at least one prism structure has a cross section with at least one curved side to provide defocusing diffusion to light incident on the substrate, the second surface structure function having characteristics to provide additional diffusion to the light incident on the substrate” and thus is patentable over Yamashita for reasons analogous to claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims as well as for further patentable features recited therein. For example, claim 2 recites “wherein the second surface structure function is random or pseudo random.” By contrast, Yamashita does not disclose that its roughened surface is random or pseudo random.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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